SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 15th August, 1991 captioned "Car manufacturers scuttle delicensing";

(b) whether it is a fact that applications for car manufacturing are pending with Industry Ministry;

(c) whether Government are aware of the shortage of car and premia being demanded on cars; and

(d) what is the number of new units likely to be permitted to manufacture cars?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government received certain applications in the past for manufacture of cars, but these were not approved because of capacity constraints.

(c) While most of the models of cars are easily available, there is some waiting period for preferred models. No premia is being demanded by the manufacturers.

(d) Existing capacity created is considered sufficient to meet the demand for passenger cars in the country during the VIII Plan period. No new units are therefore at present being permitted in this sector.

Threats to suspend publication of newspapers as a protest against hike in the prices of newsprint

142. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the newspaper industry have threatened to suspend publication following breakdown of talks on fixation of prices of newsprint; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the talks between the newspaper industry and Government never broke down. After several rounds of consultations and dialogue, the matter was resolved amicably in the meeting of Newsprint Price Fixation Advisory Committee held on 16-8-1991 on mutually agreed cost sharing basis.

Price rise of essential commodities

143. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in the prices of essential commodities ever since the Union Budget was presented in Parliament;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to curb the recent price rise and holding the price of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) There has been a mixed trend in the price variation of essential commodities after the presentation of the Union Budget.

(b) The Wholesale Price Index numbers in respect of essential commodities are available upto 10-8-1991 During the period between 20-7-1991 and 10-8-1991 the price indices of Rice, Wheat, Pulses, Vegetables, Tea Sugar and Edible Oils have shown